B-NMG Document 1 Filed 08 Page 1 of 11 SUMMONS ISSUÉD LOCAL RULE 4.1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WAIVER FORM. DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS MCF ISSUED. AHMAD SHREATEH. Plaintiff. Civ. A. No. v, FANNIE MAE and 11713 NMG MARK HOLMES,

#### NOTICE OF REMOVAL

Defendants.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332, 1441(a) and 1446, Defendant Fannic Mac hereby removes to this Court the above-captioned state court civil action which is currently pending in Essex County Superior Court, Essex County, Massachusetts. As grounds for this Notice of Removal, Fannie Mae states the following:

- 1. On or about July 1, 2004, plaintiff Ahmad Shreatch ("Plaintiff") filed the instant action, Civil Action No. ESCV2004-01258B against Fannie Mae and Mark Holmes (the "Named Defendants") in the Essex County Superior Court, Essex County, Massachusetts. Fannie Mae received service of a Summons and the Complaint via registered mail on July 8, 2004. To Fannie Mae's knowledge, Defendant Holmes has not received service of process.
  - 2. Fannic Mac has not yet answered the Complaint.
- 3. This Notice of Removal is filed with this Court within thirty (30) days of receipt by Fannie Mae of the Complaint as required by 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b).

- 4. Although Plaintiff's Complaint contains no specific counts or claims, he appears to allege that he was discriminated against on the basis of his color and religious beliefs and subjected to sexual harassment while he was assigned to perform consulting services for Fannie Mae by his employer.
- 5. The Plaintiff is a resident of Salisbury, Massachusetts. Defendant Fannie Mae is a privately owned business with its principal place of business and charter in Washington, D.C. Defendant Holmes is a resident of Washington, D.C.
- 6. There is complete diversity of citizenship between the Plaintiff and the Named Defendants in this action.
- 7. Although the Complaint does not specify the amount of damages Plaintiff seeks, he states in the Complaint that his position working as a consultant at Fannie Mae was supposed to last for 2-3 additional years, indicating that he seeks, at a minimum, compensatory damages including back pay. On information and belief, two to three years of Plaintiff's compensation exceeds \$75,000. Plaintiff also alleges that he still feels embarrassment as a result of Defendant Holmes' alleged actions, indicating that he also is seeking emotional distress damages as well as potential punitive damages. Based upon these allegations, the Plaintiff seeks damages, exclusive of interests and costs, that exceed \$75,000.
- 8. Because the Plaintiff is a citizen of a different state than the Named Defendants, and the amount on controversy exceeds \$75,000, this Court has diversity jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332(a).

- 9. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1446(d), Fannie Mae has served Plaintiff with a copy of this Notice of Removal and will promptly file the appropriate Notice of Filing of Notice of Removal with the clerk of the Essex Superior Court.
- 10. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. ¶ 1446(a), true copies of all process, pleadings and orders that have been served or filed in the state court action are attached as Exhibit 1.
- 11. In accordance with Local Rule 81.1(a), Fannie Mae will file a certified copy of all records, pleadings and docket entries in the state court action with this Court within thirty (30) days of filing this Notice of Removal.

THEREFORE, Fannie Mae respectfully requests that this case proceed before this Court as an action properly removed.

FANNIE MAE
By its attorneys,

Neil Jacobs (BBO #249300)

C. Tama Donovan (BBO #641292)

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP

60 State Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02109

(617) 526-6000

Dated: August 3, 2004

# CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, C. Tama Donovan, hereby certify that on August 3, 2004, I caused a copy of the foregoing Notice of Removal to be served, by overnight mail, upon the plaintiff: Ahmad Shreateh, 12 Palis Drive, Salisbury, MA 01952.

C. Tama Donovan

JS 44 (Rev. 3/99)

# CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS Ahmad Shreateh  (b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Essex (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				DEFENDANTS Fannie Mae and Mark Holmes						
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(TO PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY: Please Circle Type of Action Involved: - CONTRACT - EQUITABLE RELIEF -	TORT -	MOTOR VEHICES TORY
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# COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

ESSEX, ss.

SUPERIOR COUNTY
CIVIL ACTION

AHMAD SHREATEH Plaintiff(s

Fanniemae & MARK HOLMES, Defendant(s)

#### **SUMMONS**

To the above named Defendant:

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon AHMAD Shreatch

plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 12 PALIS DR. Salishing MA Of an answer to the

complaint which is herewith served upon you, within 20 days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the

day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the

complaint. You are also required to file your answer to the complaint in the office of the Clerk of this court at

Newlood Post Superior cither before service upon plaintiff's attorney or within a reasonable time thereafter.

Unless otherwise provided by Rulé 13 (a), your answer must state as a counterclaim any claim which you may have against the plaintiff which arises out of the transaction or occurrence that is the subject matter of the plaintiff's claim or you will thereafter be barred from making such claim in any other action.

WITNESS, SUZANNE V. DelVECCHIO, Esquire, at Salem, the day of the day of the day of the second two thousand the second transfer of the se

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This summons is issued pursuant to Rule 4 of the Massachusetts Rules of Civil Procedure.
 When more than one defendant is involved, the names of all defendants should appear in the caption. If a separate summons is used for each defendant, each should be addressed to the particular defendant.

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3/2004

#### COMPLAINT

July 1, 2004

My name is Ahmad Shreateh. I am an American Citizen and have lived in the United States for almost twenty years. I was born and raised in Palestine. I am a Muslim by birth, although I do not actively practice my religion. In or about May 2001, I was engaged as a computer consultant through Computer Merchant (Mass) to work for one of their customer's clients. The Computer Merchant customer is Compaq and their "client" is Fannie Mae. I worked at Fannie Mae office in Washington DC.

After a series of interviews to determine my technical competency, during May, June and July, I started the project at Fannie Mae on or about July 30, 2001. My job classification was 'senior consultant in charge of GS320 environment'. I was also responsible for the consulting needs relating to Compaq products on site. The business manager was Barbara Copper-Jones and the technical supervisor from the UNIX group was Mark Holmes.

The first month (August) went without any real problem. At the end of August, Mr. Holmes asked me if I wanted to go out with him and his friend. His tone and body language gave me the distinct impression that the invitation was more than just social. I politely declined, telling him that I was busy and that I was planning on going to the Middle East to see my Family during the Labor Day break. As I tried to walk away, Mr. Holmes took hold of my hand and said "We mostly invite some other men for more fun" I pulled my hand and told Mr. Holmes the he was under a misapprehension and that I was not gay. I excused myself and left.

I traveled overseas for Labor Day break and was out of the country until September 17, 2001. As soon as I returned, Mr. Holmes attitude towards me changed. He asked me to come into his office and asked me what I thought about September 11th. I was caught a little off-guard. I said I did not know that "they" were just crazy, fanatic people. I wanted to drop the subject and leave the office. Mr. Holmes said, "We (Americans) have bombs the size of the Middle East that we should dump on them and kill them all." I told Mr. Holmes that I understand his anger but that I still have family in the Middle East and I have nothing to do with what happen. I said that he should not take out his anger on me. Mr. Holmes said that it did not matter because 'you're all uneducated, stupid Arabs—you're savages'. I walked out of his office. For the next few days Mr. Holmes confronted me in the same way and made similar comments. As time passed his comments were as aggressive, derogatory and biting. I did not know what to do. I felt isolated and afraid to confront him or tell anybody about his comments. I just hoped it would pass.

At the end of September Mr. Holmes again asked me if I was interested in meeting him and his friend at their place. I again told Mr. Holmes that I was not gay and that he

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should stop asking. He told me it would be in my best interest to meet him if I wanted to continue to work at Fannie Mae. I told him I would not meet him and that whatever happens I will deal with.

At about this time during the whole incident, I informed two managers from Compaq and two Managers from Fannie Mae. The Compaq people did not want to get involved and referred to me to Fannie Mae people. The Fannie Mae managers told me to deal with him and try to resolve the problem.

On about October 17, 2001, Mr. Holmes and another Individual (I can't remember his name) asked me to come to his office. When I arrived I was told that I was being terminated and that I was done as of October 19<sup>th</sup>.

I asked why I was being terminated. Mr. Holmes said it had nothing to do with my qualifications or job performance. When I pressed for a reason, Mr. Holmes, almost with joy in his voice, said: 'You're and Arab and you did not play the game right with me', I left his office.

I got in touch with several managers inside Fannie Mae trying to find a consulting work, as soon as Mr. Holmes new of several arranged meeting that I was supposed to have on October 18th, he came to me at noon of October 18th and asked me to give him my badge back and to leave the building immediately. His comment was "I DO NOT WANT YOU IN FANNIE MAE".

After I left Fannie Mae, a senior manager from Fannie Mae, asked me if I was interested in returning to work in his department. I said I would love to come back. I was subsequently told that Mr. Holmes has opposed my return.

I loved working at Fannie Mae. The job was supposed to last for 2-3 more years. It was a wonderful opportunity for me.

I am a loyal American. What Mr. Holmes did was wrong. I grieve for what happen on September 11th just as much as him or any other American. I should not be singled out and castigated for the color of my skin or my religious beliefs. I still feel the embarrassment of his sexual advances and the hate he heaped on me because of who I

I am filling this complaint requesting a jury trial to determine the actions by Fannie Mae and Mr. Holmes.

July 1,004

# COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

ESSEX, as.

SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL ACTION NO:ESCV2000-01258

AHMAD SHREATEH,

Plaintiff,

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FANNIE MAR and MARK HOLMES,

Defendants.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

# DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO EXTEND TIME TO RESPOND TO PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT

Defendants, hereby move this Court to extend the time to respond to Plaintiff's Complaint for thirty days.

As grounds for this motion the defendants state:

- Plaintiff, Ahmad Shreateh filed a complaint on July 1, 2004 against defendants.
- 2) Defendants were served on or about July 2, 200%.
- Pursuant to Rule 4 of the Massachusetts Rules of Civil Procedure, Defendants' answer to Plaintiff's Complaint is due on or about July 22, 2004.
- 4) Defendants reasonably require an extension of thirty days from July 22, 2004, to gather facts necessary to properly respond to Plaintiff's Compliant.

5) Plaintiff will not be prejudiced by a brief continuance of time to respond to plaintiff's complaint and the allowance of this motion.

WHEREFORE: The Defendants respectfully request that this Court extend the time in which to respond to Plaintiff's Complaint up to and including August 21, 2004.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fannie Mae and Mark Holmes By their Attorneys,

Richard | Shea,

BBb# 456310

Jennifer B. Hardy

BBO# 634494

MELICK, PORTER & SHEA, LLP

28 State Street

Boston, MA 02109-1775

# CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Jennifer B. Hardy, hereby certify that on this day, I forwarded notice of the foregoing document(s) by mailing a copy thereof, postage prepaid to the following:

Ahmad Shreateh

[Pro Se]

12 Palis Drive

Salisbury, MA 01952

Jennafer B. Hardy

Dated: 7-15-04